



Student Access & Success

Electronic Newsletter from the Ohio Board of Regents

Volume 1 - September 2003

Ohio Board of Regents

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Welcome to the Ohio Board of Regents' Electronic Newsletter on Student Access and Success

Welcome to the Ohio Board of Regents electronic *Student Access & Success* Newsletter. This Newsletter will help keep you informed about activities, projects, and events across the State in the area of student access to and successful participation in postsecondary education. It is targeted to those individuals who work directly with college access programs and their partners in PreK-16, local business, and community programs. This e-newsletter will be distributed quarterly to the targeted groups and made available on the Web (www.OhioAccess.org). If you are interested in receiving the newsletter electronically or in submitting an article, contact Eric R. Almonte, Assistant Director, Access Initiatives, at ealmonte@regents.state.oh.us.



A Message from our Chancellor – Roderick G. W. Chu

In Ohio, access to a college education is much more than being able to pay for it. While affordability is the one dimension of access with which we are most familiar, just making post-secondary education more affordable won't solve the problem of access. Students must be able to attend classes at times and in places that are convenient for them, be academically prepared, aspire to pursue postsecondary education, and believe a college education is attainable by them. We must address these other dimensions, as well as affordability, in order for Ohio to educate all the Ohioans needed for our state to succeed in today's Knowledge Economy. In this new economy of the 21st century, innovative technology and knowledge-based businesses are reshaping our economic landscape and redefining the forces that contribute to economic success. Increased access to and successful participation in higher education for all Ohioans is central to the mission of the Ohio Board of Regents. To achieve this goal, we are exploring new strategies such as a toll-free student hotline, a Web-based college and career planning tool, and a student incentive program to help pay for college. With your continued efforts and partnership, the Board of Regents will propel Ohio forward into the Third Frontier of exploration, discovery and cutting-edge technology, by improving the academic preparation and aspiration of Ohio's citizens and the availability of higher learning for them. We need to ensure that as we work to increase the opportunity for more students to participate in higher education, we also increase their ability to succeed in their education, to tackle the challenges and opportunities of the Knowledge Economy, and continuously improve and develop their knowledge and skills.

Sincerely,

Roderick G.W. Chu



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Ohio GEAR UP State Program Receives a Fifth Year of Funding!!!

Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (**GEAR UP**) is a national program launched by the Higher Education Amendments (HEA) of 1998, which encourages more young people to have high expectations, stay in school, take challenging courses, and go to college. GEAR UP provides federal education funding for both local partnership grants and state grants on a competitive basis. [We are excited to announce that the Ohio GEAR UP State Program recently was awarded a continuation grant for a fifth year \(2003-2004\)](#) from the U.S. Department of Education. In addition, President Bush has recommended a 6th year of funding for the program nationally to continue services to students currently in the program to ensure that they successfully complete high school and enter college. Ohio was one of twenty-one original states awarded a competitive five-year, state level GEAR UP grant in 1999. While the Board of Regents administers the state level grant, there are nine local partnership grant programs in Ohio as well.

Currently, State Level GEAR UP serves more than 1,850 students and their families at the model sites in Cleveland and Ironton. Replication of best practices throughout the state via OCAN will substantially increase the number of students and families served. GEAR UP services include early awareness, advanced middle and high school curricula, tutoring, mentoring, advising, after school activities, summer enrichment programs, parental involvement, and enhanced professional development for teachers. All GEAR UP students receive a 21st Century Scholar Certificate, which tells students and their families how much federal financial aid might be available when they are ready for college, and additional information on state funded financial aid programs.

GEAR UP evaluation, conducted by the University of Cincinnati Evaluation Services Center, indicates that participating students show an increased interest and confidence about attending college, are taking more academically challenging courses, have better class attendance, and improved grade and test scores.

OHIO COLLEGE ACCESS NETWORK (OCAN)

To address Ohio's education deficit, the Ohio College Access Network (OCAN) was founded in 1999, by the Ohio Board of Regents in collaboration with Knowledge Works Foundation, to establish college access programs across Ohio. OCAN is the first statewide coordinating body for college access programs in the nation. The organization is focused on helping Ohio residents pursue postsecondary education by building and supporting local college access programs throughout the state.

OCAN's **goal** is to help as many Ohio students as possible pursue postsecondary education by helping to create new access programs and providing continuing assistance to access programs already operating throughout the state. In keeping with this goal, OCAN expects Ohio to be recognized by residents and the business community, state government officials and corporate leaders as a state that acknowledges the value of education and is dedicated to providing educational and workforce training opportunities to its citizens in the interest of their personal success and the economic vitality of the community.



For additional information on Ohio's GEAR UP, contact:

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OCAN & GEAR UP Conference

Sept. 8-9th, 2003

Kings Island Resort and
Conference Center
Kings Island, Ohio

For additional
Conference information
and online registration,
contact:

(216) 241-6133, Ext. 201
www.ohiocan.org

“Best Practices” in Ohio College Access Programs

Ohio's **GEAR UP State Program** supports **The Ohio College Access Network (OCAN)** by identifying, replicating, and expanding exemplary college access practices. The Ohio Board of Regents collaborates with OCAN to further develop and sustain best practice models and extend them to the 30 current and future OCAN sites in Ohio. As part of this effort, Ohio's **GEAR UP** program is:

- ❑ **Implementing [comprehensive model programs](#)** for improving college aspiration, preparation, and participation for low-income urban and Appalachian communities (Cleveland and Ironton).
- ❑ **Identifying [outstanding programs and practices](#)** for improving college aspiration; early awareness about the importance of higher education, the cost of college, and financial aid opportunities; preparation; and participation, with special attention to the needs of urban and Appalachian communities.
- ❑ **Developing [new access products based on best practices](#)** (e.g., Proficiency Test Preparation Program, early awareness curriculum, peer tutoring and “homework roundtables” and other after-school programs, in-school advising services, Summer Enrichment Programs, and dedicated resource room).

Over the past two years GEAR UP and OCAN have identified 11 best practices from the GEAR UP Partnership Grant Programs, TRIO Programs, and OCAN programs via competitive processes. Simultaneously, the University of Cincinnati Evaluation Services Center is helping to identify the projects and activities in the Cleveland and Ironton Models of the GEAR UP State Program that appear to have the greatest impact on student success (i.e., best practices). GEAR UP and OCAN currently are developing a *Catalog of OHIO College Access Best Practices* that will be made available for the first time at the upcoming OCAN/GEAR UP Conference, September 8 and 9.

Mark Your Calendar:

OCAN Partners with GEAR UP for Joint Conference

OCAN will hold its Fourth Annual Conference in collaboration with the Ohio GEAR UP State Program at the Kings Island Resort and Conference Center just outside Cincinnati on September 8 and 9. In addition to OCAN and GEAR UP Program staff, College Tech Prep staff, and members of the Ohio Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (OASFAA), and the Ohio Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel (OAEOPP) are encouraged to attend. Sessions will include topics on grant writing, program evaluation, advisory services, mentoring, advocacy, community relationship building, best practices in access, and much more.

The Conference will kick-off for early attendees with a get-together in the hotel restaurant during the NFL Sunday night game of the week (Oakland Raiders v. Tennessee Titans). Registration will begin Monday morning at 8:00 a.m. with concurrent sessions beginning at 10:30 a.m. Watch your mail for more information on the Conference or visit OCAN's web site at www.ohiocan.org to register online.

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OBR Creates New College Access Website!!!

In a continuing effort to create a comprehensive understanding of college access issues and provide relevant information that enhances efforts to overcome college access barriers, the Board of Regents has opened a new website at OhioAccess.org. Currently, this website includes the “Access Pathway Model” that delineates both system requirements needed to move an individual successfully along the college access pathway and access barriers that develop when these system requirements are weak or missing. The model, which can be navigated, includes research-based information in each of the access domains — the aspiration to pursue opportunities in higher education, academic preparation for the rigor of college, and the affordability of college opportunities.

The website also includes several pertinent PowerPoint presentations that can be viewed on the site or downloaded for use by schools, community-based access programs and other college access practitioners. Presentations that are currently available include:

- **[“Financial Aid Lowers the Price of College.”](#)** This presentation addresses common misconceptions about the price of college, shows how financial aid impacts the price that families must pay for a college education and provides basic information about the most common sources of student financial aid. The closing slide gives 7 reasons why every student should consider going to college. This presentation is available in both English and Spanish. (30 slides without notes.)
- **[Financial Aid Night Presentation.](#)** This presentation, originally created by the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, has been customized for the State of Ohio by the Board of Regents and the Ohio College Access Network, with permission from NASFAA. Detailed information covers state and federal grant programs as well as scholarships and loans. (55 slides with a script.)
- **[“The Access Pathway – Overcoming Critical Barriers to Higher Education.”](#)** This presentation analyzes college access barriers in three access domains – aspiration, academic preparation and affordability – and highlights both current and proposed state-level strategies to overcome these barriers. (30 slides without notes.)

Additional presentations will be added. This site includes links to important college access activities and programs such as GEAR UP and OCAN. It is the Regents’ hope that this website will serve as an important resource in our collaborative effort to understand college access issues and implement interventions to address access barriers.

Ohio Board of Regents
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The Ohio Board of Regents State Grants and Scholarships Department: Providing a Critical Link to Financial Aid Information for Ohio Students

The Ohio Board of Regents, State Grants and Scholarships Department (SGS) has the primary responsibility of administering eight (8) state-funded financial aid programs. These programs include, but are not limited to, the Ohio Instructional Grant Program, the Part-Time Student Instructional Grant Program, the Ohio Student Choice Grant Program, the Ohio Academic Scholarship Program and the Ohio War Orphans Scholarship Program. In addition to administering state-funded financial aid programs, SGS distributes financial aid information to high school guidance counselors, college financial aid administrators, and students and families in the effort to increase awareness about ways to finance a college education. The Ohio of Board of Regents is eager to assist students and families in their search for financial aid while at the same time helping to dispel the myth that a college education is unobtainable strictly based on price.

If you are interested in hearing more about state-funded financial aid programs, or if you are interested in receiving a financial aid information packet, please contact the Ohio Board of Regents, State Grants and Scholarships Department toll-free at 888-833-1133. You may also visit SGS on the web at <http://www.regents.state.oh.us/sgs/>.

Articulation and Transfer Procedures Will Improve Access for Ohio's Students in Higher Education

The Articulation and Transfer Advisory Council is in the process of reviewing the Ohio Transfer Policy in an effort to assess and improve transfer procedures for Ohio's students in higher education. The original policy was developed in 1989 and adopted in 1990. In response to trends in general education and the need for a highly educated workforce, the Council commissioned various review committees to look at general education and the Transfer Module and transfer opportunities for technical degree holders to baccalaureate degree programs.

The recommendations are in response to Am. Sub. H.B. 95. Further information about the Council's work is available at www.regents.state.oh.us. Your review of the work is encouraged and responses are invited. Respond to darndt@regents.state.oh.us.

College Tech Prep

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Ohio's College Tech Prep Enters its 2nd Decade

Ohio's College Tech Prep initiative is entering its second decade and continues to create partnerships between secondary and higher education, business, labor, and industry. College Tech Prep begins in the 11th grade and combines two years of secondary and a minimum of two years postsecondary education in a four-year sequential and non-duplicative course of study. It integrates rigorous academics with technical instruction to prepare students for high skill and high paying careers. It is the only formal statewide linkage between secondary and higher education with approximately 17,000 students enrolled.

Currently, there are [26 College Tech Prep consortia across the state](#), with over 500 school districts, all 96 vocational education planning districts, and 44 public college campuses. Students are able to choose from programs in:

- Information Technology
- Health
- Engineering Technologies
- Construction Management
- Biotechnology
- Business & Marketing
- E-Commerce
- Agribusiness and Production Systems
- Horticulture & Environmental Technologies
- Automotive & Power Technology

[New pilot programs are being developed in 2003](#) for acquisitions and logistics along with government and public administration/law and public safety.

College Tech Prep is in the process of developing a new vision and strategic plan in order to help Ohio stay competitive in global markets. Ohio's College Tech Prep continues to create new curricula with new skill sets to meet the needs of the Knowledge Economy and the Third Frontier.